

THE MORNING NEWS

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Tourism Day celebrated on Aruba Part II- “Aruba is pacing ahead of the Caribbean in recovery”



Minister Oduber gets his copy

The official observance of World Tourism Day on an island where it is a pillar of the economy was an informative and enlightening affair at the Westin Aruba Resort on Tuesday, September 27. As detailed in yesterday's paper, Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, took the opportunity to present his Tourism Policy Plan for the coming year, followed by Mrs. Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority, who in turn presented her 2012 Marketing Plan to the gathering and Minister Oduber.

The ATA is the strategy planning and marketing arm of Aruba's tourism industry, completely dedicated to promoting the island around the world. They do propose policy or initiate many of the public attractions one sees being implemented around the island at present; these are under the auspices of the Ministry of Tourism. ATA processes the numbers, analyzing the success of past and current marketing efforts and acts accordingly. The ATA was privatized within the public sector at the beginning

of this year, with Mrs. Tjin Asjoe-Croes taking the helm a few months earlier. She is a native born Aruban, who proved her mettle serving six years as CEO of the Tourism Corporation of Bonaire. She was handed quite a task, the full reorganization of Aruba's tourism marketing entity while assuring that their vital activities continued and proved fruitful. This is the first year the ATA has ever published their marketing plan a full 4 months prior to the coming year, allowing staff and stakeholders a glimpse of where the entity will be taking the island in 2012.

The presentation began with a lively video used at various sales events to convey a flavor of the island. Mrs. Tjin Asjoe-Croes expressed hope it inspired the audience, “As we want you to feel the Aruba brand; it is basically us; we are a key part of the brand. We help, together as a community- all of our actions and all we do on a day to day basis- is the Aruba brand and what we are all about.”

The results of surveys and comments from visitors as to

what is identified as the Aruba brand-the look and feel of Aruba, is built on key elements, the people, the perfect weather, pristine beaches, the friendly people, a diversity of activities, and a clean and safe place to vacation.

A detail recounting of statistics through August of 2011 can provide some optimism regarding what is foremost in the minds of islanders whose livelihood stems from tourism; positive growth since 2009 is steady, and Aruba is presently recovering from the financial downturn of 2008. Comparison to the rest of the Caribbean and other destinations around the world, it appears the island is outpacing both.

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) forecasted an increase of 4% to 5% for international tourist arrivals in 2011; Aruba increased by 6.27% in the first 8 months of the year as compared to the entire region, which recorded a total of 4.1% growth. Along with arrivals, the important numbers, such as ADR (Average Daily Rate) is up by 5.9% and REVPAR (Revenue per Available Room) is up 9.3%.

The many detailed plans for increasing airlift and providing greater access to the island from new and proven markets while stimulating and increasing tourism from emerging nations with strong economies such as Brazil were examined. However one of the most interesting points the ATA CEO brought across was a very important message regarding the interweaving of tourism and the island's society and how they impact each other.

Continued on page 5

Seven Seas launches inaugural Think Pink fundraising campaign

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Lizayra Tromp, Seven Seas Product Manager for Mediocosmetics, their exclusive agent on Aruba, joined with Annaliz Jonghout, President of the Mary Joan Foundation to announce the first Caribbean fundraising campaign by the manufacturer of natural vitamins and supplements to benefit cancer research.

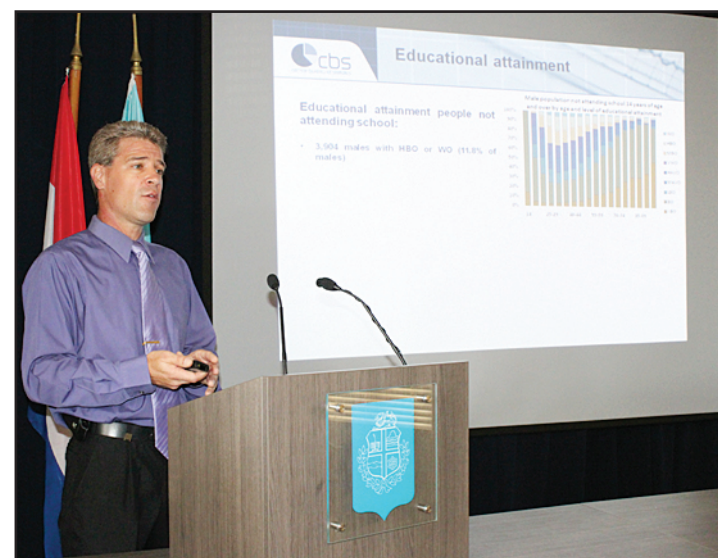
Mary Joan Foundation is a local breast cancer support group named for cancer victim Mary Joan Geerman, who fought a valiant battle against the disease for 8 years, all the while encouraging other island women with breast cancer to share their pain, fears, and experiences, and so support each other and their families during this often desperate time.

The featured Seven Seas product is the Once-A-Day Pure Cod Liver Oil with Omega 3, with Vitamins A, D & E. It will be easily identifiable by a pink cap and banner across the label. For each bottle sold 1 Aruban florins, or \$.60 U.S., will be donated towards local cancer research or support groups.

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Results of Census 2010 are in



Martijn Balkenstijn presenting his report.

(see story on page 3)

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Libya's new rulers close in on Kadhafi clan

SIRTE, (AFP) - Libya's new rulers on Thursday stepped up the hunt for Moamer Kadhafi's inner circle, seeking the arrest of one of his sons, Saadi, amid conflicting reports of the capture of his spokesman Mussa Ibrahim.

They also said another Kadhafi son, Mutassim, was in the deposed despot's birthplace of Sirte, where old regime loyalists fought pitched battles with combatants loyal to the ruling National Transitional Council.

Meanwhile, interim prime minister Mahmud Jibril said he will not be a part of the new government, the formation of which has been postponed

until the end of the country's conflict.

Libya's Al-Hurra Misrata television said Ibrahim had been caught outside Sirte and that he had been in a car and veiled, adding that it would soon broadcast footage of his capture.

However, late Thursday, a spokesman for the Misrata military council Adel Ibrahim told AFP, "We cannot confirm he was arrested."

Mussa Ibrahim was the public voice of the Kadhafi regime.

Since NTC fighters overran Tripoli on August 23, he has continued to issue statements through Syrian-based Arrai television from an unknown location, although not so frequently in recent days.

He appealed for resolve against "agents and traitors," denounced what he called "genocide" by NATO and its "Libyan agents" and criticised

the world community for "inaction."

Global police agency Interpol said, meanwhile, the NTC had requested an arrest notice against Saadi Kadhafi, who is believed to be in Niger.

It said the Libyan authorities wanted him "for allegedly misappropriating properties through force and armed intimidation when he headed the Libyan Football Federation."

Saadi, 38, was last seen in Niger and the red notice calls particularly on countries in the region to help locate and arrest him "with a view to returning him to Libya where an arrest warrant for him has been issued," Interpol said.

Niger's Prime Minister Brigi Rafini said later Thursday that his country had no plans to send Saadi home to face justice.

The NTC said they catch about 10 Kadhafi loyalists a day.

Obama 'always' ready to change Cuba policy

WASHINGTON, (AFP) - US President Barack Obama said that he would always be ready to change tough policy towards Cuba, but needed evidence from the communist state it was ready to reform.

Obama, in an Internet roundtable with questions posed by Hispanic journalists, said his gradual easing of some US restrictions on Cuba had been intended to hint at steps that could follow if Havana stepped away from a "Cold War" mentality.

"Throughout Latin America, democracies have emerged from previously authoritarian regimes. The time has come for the same thing to happen in Cuba," Obama said, in an event simultaneously translated into Spanish.

"As long as I'm president, I will always be prepared to change our Cuba policy if and

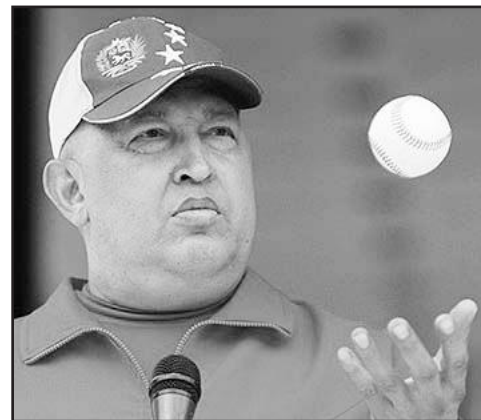
when we start seeing a serious intention on the part of the Cuban government to provide liberty for its people," Obama said.

Obama said that before he would act, he wanted to see action from Cuba on releasing political prisoners and on providing people with basic human rights.

The US embargo on Cuba was first partially imposed in 1960 -- just after Fidel Castro staged his revolution -- and remains in force with the United States banning most trade and most travel to the Caribbean island.

In 2009, Obama reversed some restrictions on immediate family travel and allowed Cuban Americans to send remittances to relatives. Some direct flights are also allowed. But he cannot lift the embargo without Congress's approval.

Baseball-tossing Chavez denies report on health



Though Chavez insisted he was carrying on with many duties, he acknowledged that he was working at "half-speed" in compliance with his medical treatment.

After undergoing a fourth round of chemotherapy in Cuba last week, Chavez sought to assure Venezuelans

CARACAS, (AFP) - President Hugo Chavez appeared before journalists Thursday to deny reports his health had taken a turn for the worse, saying he was "doing well" as he recovers from cancer-fighting chemotherapy.

Chavez, 57, showed up at the Miraflores presidential palace wearing a baseball cap and glove, tossing a ball as he commented about his health and denounced what he called a "morbid, crass and inhumane campaign" against him.

His comments came after the Miami-based Spanish language El Nuevo Herald, citing anonymous sources, said Chavez was rushed to a military hospital for emergency care following kidney failure.

The president, an anti-US stalwart, insisted that "nothing out of the ordinary" had happened during his recovery and that the rumors he was gravely ill "seek to create uncertainty."

he was healthy, telling them on Sunday that chemotherapy treatment had not left him with any debilitating side effects.

Chavez, who has authorized no one else to discuss his health and has kept the exact nature of his cancer shrouded in secrecy, had a cancerous tumor removed on June 20 in Havana.

The report by El Nuevo Herald newspaper late Wednesday said Chavez was rushed to hospital on Tuesday.

Official handout photos in Cuba showed a hairless Chavez bidding farewell to Cuban President Raul Castro.

After returning to Caracas and giving a brief statement, Chavez stayed uncharacteristically out of the media spotlight, and the silence of a leader who has been omnipresent in Venezuelan public life revived the mystery surrounding his health.

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Results of Census 2010 are in and with astonishing results!

ORANJESTAD -- Last year Aruba held its once-every-ten-years census. More than 1200 specially trained local citizens visited every home on the island. Information with respect to family situations, work, income, education and much more were noted and compiled. This past Wednesday, exactly one year later, Director of the Bureau of Statistics, Martijn Balkenstijn, presented the first results of our fifth census. Balkenstijn indicated that this 5th Aruba Census was a great success.

Martijn Balkenstijn began his report of the census results by observing that in October 2010 there were 96 nationalities residing on Aruba. One important factor that was revealed from the census is that since the last census ten years ago, Aruba's population has grown by 11 thousand people. More or less 7 thousand of these were born on Aruba, while the other 4 thousand emigrated from other countries. According to Balkenstijn, this is a remarkable difference from the past century. In the past we had a growth of 24 thousand people who were added to the population during the spread of ten years. Two thirds of those were immigrants.

The composition of our society is changing in an accelerated manner. More people are growing older and a relatively small percentage of young

people are being added. Balkenstijn alerted everyone about the financial consequences of a "graying" society. The graph displayed by Balkenstijn illustrated figures of 90-60-90. On the light side, such figures may be attractive for females, but with respect to a pyramid of your population this should be a warning sign. According to statistics from AZV (national sickness insurance program), for people between the ages of 45 to 49 they spend more than 2 thousand Aruban florins for medical care per year. While, for those in the age group of 80 to 85 years the cost is almost 7.5 million Aruban florins for medical care per year. Over a period of ten years, this amounts to a whopping 40 million Aruban florins that must be paid by AZV for medical cost to this "graying" population.

Last year AZV had more than 98 thousand registered members. With respect to the "graying" phenomena, Aruba, reportedly, is the leader in the Caribbean region.

The census also revealed that more than 50 thousand citizens on Aruba are employed. A fifth part of these work in the hospitality sector, while a tenth have government jobs. One out of every 100 persons works as domestic employees. One half of all employed people earn at least Afls.2.500 per month

with salaries increasing according to age. Of those employed, more than half were not born on Aruba. The total population is currently comprised of one third having been born outside of Aruba.

Regarding housing, there is a tendency for smaller families. Fewer babies are born which results in smaller families living in smaller homes for one family. This is one reason why so many apartments were built during the last ten years.

The census is a very important tool, which helps the government, the private sector and other institutions to delineate their vision and policies. At the same time, the general population is able to get a detailed view of the different characteristics of our population. This last 2010 census was financed by the FDA (Fund for the Development of Aruba).

As of January 2012:

Minister Otmar Oduber begins process of minimum wage adjustment

ORANJESTAD – Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, has for some time has been preparing to initiate the minimum wage adjustment process targeting January 2012. He has sent an urgent petition to the Department of Labor and research (DAO) to initiate the procedure.

Based on article 13, paragraph 1 of the Minimum Wages Ordinance and after listening to a presentation of the Social Economic Council (SER) Mr. Oduber learned he can adjust the minimum wage if there is an increase of the price index during the period of August 2010 – August 2011.

When Minister Oduber originally submitted the peti-

tion the Central Office of Statistics did not have the price index, which will delay the process. However, the Central Office of Statistics has received the index price analyses, which denotes inflation of 6.8%. Now Minister Oduber can start with the process of the minimum wage adjustment. All documents will be submitted to SER for advice and afterwards they will go to the Council of Ministers, then finally to the Legislation department in order to change the law.

Minister Oduber promises to do his utmost to finish this process to introduce the minimum wage beginning January 2012.

By popular demand: Santa Rosa Flea Market happening again this Saturday, October 1

PIEDRA PLAT – Preparations are in full swing for the very popular Santa Rosa Fleamarket, which is scheduled for tomorrow, October 1. Those who have very much enjoyed the past flea markets, organized by Santa Rosa, asked for this event to be held again.

The Flea market will offer for sale, as always, local cuisine and various produce of Aruba; fruits, vegetables and some honest home cooking – and don't forget the sweets! All the special treats islanders love but do not have the time to prepare.

Minister of Tourism,

Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, invites everyone to come and enjoy this festive day at Santa Rosa. Santa Rosa will be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with lots of great bargains to meet everyone's budget



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Divi Resorts will continue with this contest every month and wish all the best to all participants.



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Regretfully, our store on Havenstraat # 25 is temporarily closed for a full refurbishment. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but we assure you that we are working hard to complete the project in as short a time as possible, and we expect that the new and improved location will help serve you even better. We expect to re-open by the first week of October, 2011.

Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to attend to you soon in October.

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Arubans learning how to plant fruit and vegetables at Santa Rosa



Several months ago the idea for offering our people a basic course in Horticulture was initiated by Minister Otmar Oduber. The Enseñanza pa Empleo (Education for Employment) organization took the challenge to create such a course and decided to begin offering a basic Horticultural course as of this month, September.

The course is designed to teach people how to plant fruit trees and vegetables for personal consumption, how to use a relatively small piece of ground in one's yard, or a larger parcel of ground for planting and to be knowledgeable of all the other requirements regarding planting.

After lengthy planning, the course was finally made concrete and the offering was published in the local newspapers. Everyone was made aware of a basic horticultural course that would be offered and that registration for the course could be made at the Enseñanza pa Empleo.

Last Monday the basic horticultural course was begun at Santa Rosa with the theoretical section of the course from 7:00 to 9:00PM. Ir. Teophilo Damian will teach the theoretical section of the course on Mondays at Santa Rosa. On Saturdays the hands-on practical section will continue at Santa Rosa from 7:00 to 10:00 in the morning and will be led by Erwin Danje and Roberto Croes. The course has a duration of five weeks after which participants will receive a diploma.



ceive a diploma.

The interest in such a course is rather high with the very first class having 60 participants. An interesting observation is the fact that more than half of the participants are females.

It is expected that Santa Rosa will continue offering

more courses together with Enseñanza pa Empleo. The government wishes all the participants in this basic horticultural course success and that the knowledge acquired will enable them to begin planting their own fruit and vegetables for their own consumption.

Seven Seas launches

Continued from page 1

All are encouraged to visit the Seven Seas Facebook page with the name "A Memory for Life." Those who have a breast cancer story to tell are asked to leave their name and post a comment, with the chance to win a glamour photo shoot with local photographer Jason Margarita. Seven Seas urges women to open up and share their stories to help educate women regarding the need for monthly breast self-examina-

tions and regular mammograms after a certain age; sharing is caring.

For more information about breast cancer and the Mary Joan Foundation, visit their headquarters at Sabana Blanco 8 or call 588-999 or 560-8260 or e-mail maryjoan-aruba@hotmail.com. The foundation also has a FB page.

by Rosalie Klein

Aruba's telephone company - SETAR N.V. reducing tariffs for BlackBerry users



As of October 1st SETAR N.V. will introduce a flat fee of Afls.10 per month for all users of BlackBerrys. BB users will have unlimited access to applications not currently in their package. Video streaming and audio, Whatsapp and other applications will be included in this special tariff.

Currently BB users can PIN to connect to the Internet. The majority of BB activity goes through the so-called apn-setting blackberry.net. This connection is included in the customer's package and is an unlimited connection.

Video streaming and audio as well as apps from other companies such as Whatsapp, GetGlue and Dropbox were not included in the package currently available. The reason for this is because these apps do not go through the blackberry.net but uses the Internet path of SETAR (internet.setar.aw). Said application was not included in previous BlackBerry price packages.

Clients can now obtain SurfBlackBerry for Fls.10 per month and have unlimited access to all of the above mentioned services. The SurfBlackBerry is an add-on on your regular BB Add-on for Fls.49, Fls.39 or Fls.29. For an additional Fls.10 per month all BB clients with BB Postpaid can make maximum

use of all the services available on mobile Internet.

For users of BB Postpaid who have a Surf & Mail add-on for Fls.39 for streaming, this will now be changed automatically for the new Surf-BlackBerry package for Fls.10 per month. This change represents a discount of Fls.29! All other clients interested in this new service should contact SETAR or visit any one of their Teleshops as of October 1st. It is important to note that, this new service is available only as a combination with the BlackBerry Postpaid add-on program.

The BlackBerry roaming service remains unchanged and the tariffs for roaming continue to apply in accordance to current roaming tariffs.

Another good news from SETAR is that as of October 1st they will reduce the tariff for data for Prepaid service of Fls.2.50 p/MB. The new tariff will be Fls.2.00 p/MB.

Customers who make use of the services of Internet, SETAR has a policy called FUP (Fair Use Policy) which permits everyone on the Internet highway equal right of use. If any customer infringes on the rights of others giving them a disadvantage of any kind, SETAR can reduce their speed and or terminate their connection.

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Tourism Day celebrated on Aruba Part II- ...

Continued from page 1

"In a perfect world, the Happy Island we promote outside Aruba should also match what visitors get to experience while on island ... that is heavily contingent on the physical and human aspect of the product. If that is met, it means our investments and projects we put in the market are stretched ... so it is very important to us for the brand promise to be delivered."

"Aruba's 'One Happy Island' credo is heavily linked to the happiness of Aruba's people and the quality of life for the islanders. In this respect, sustainability depends on all aspects of the cycle, from ATA's contribution and investments as it yields increased tourism receipts and desired on-island expenditure levels, to the augmented number of tourists. Yet, all of those efforts do not necessarily contribute to the creation

of happy people and a happy community, which, in a perfect world, would certainly lead to happy visitor experiences."

"Sustainability will be endangered if some links in the happiness cycle would not carry their full weight. Nevertheless, armed with faith in the local community and in the existing systems, and

with the knowledge that Aruba is considered a leader in tourism development and showed some conviction over the years, ATA is banking on continued efforts for "A good place to live is a great place to visit." ATA is committed towards doing its share, we hope you (the stakeholders) are too."

by Rosalie Klein

UNWTO's forecast for international tourist arrivals between 4% and 5% for 2011

World:	940,000,000	up 6.7%
Caribbean:	23,102,000 (2.5% market share)	up 4.4%
Aruba:	825,451 (3.6% market share)	up 1.6%
Caribbean:	15,256,700	up 4.1%
Aruba:	515,468	up 6.27%



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SCI-TECH

Morning is world's happy time, says Twitter

twitter



WASHINGTON (AFP) - People around the world are happiest in the morning, according to a US study on Thursday that analyzed hundreds of millions of messages on the microblogging site Twitter.

Cornell University sociologists used language software to detect the presence of positive words in 509 million tweets from 2.4 million users in 84 different countries over a two-year period.

Mood peaks were detected early in the day but began to dip mid-morning, about the time most people are starting their workdays.

Another positive peak was

witnessed around midnight, followed by a "sharp drop in NA (negative affect, including distress, fear, anger, guilt, and disgust) during the overnight hours," said the study in the journal Science.

The highest numbers of good mood words indicating enthusiasm, delight, activeness, and alertness were found on Saturdays and Sundays, "which points to possible effects of work-related stress, less sleep, and earlier wake time."

Samples from predominantly Muslim countries where the weekends are on different days, such as the United Arab Emirates, showed the same patterns on Fridays and Saturdays as seen in other countries on Saturdays and Sundays.

English was the only language analyzed, though users came from across the globe.

However, modern technology's answer to every emotion -- the smiley or sad face emoticon -- was of little help in the analysis, because "usage was too sparse to be able to detect a consistent pattern," said the study.



UNITED STATES, Milford : In this image release by the General Motors Corporation, GMC introduces the industry's first crash avoidance system in the 2012 Terrain that exclusively uses a single camera mounted in the windshield to help drivers avoid front-end and lane departure crashes on September 29, 2011 in Milford, Michigan. The new active safety system uses a high-resolution digital camera that looks for shapes of vehicles and lane markings. The system uses audible warnings and a high-mounted visual display to warn the driver if he or she is following another vehicle too closely, when a collision is imminent, or when departing a lane without signaling first. (AFP photo)



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China launches first module for space station

BEIJING (AFP) - China took its first step towards building a space station yesterday when it launched an experimental module ahead of National Day celebrations.

Tiangong-1, or "Heavenly Palace", took off on schedule shortly after 09:15pm (1315 GMT) from the Gobi desert in China's northwest, propelled by a Long March 2F rocket, ahead of China's National Day on October 1.

The unmanned 8.5-tonne module will test a number of space operations as a preliminary step towards building a space station by 2020.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao was at the launch centre for the take-off, while President Hu Jintao watched from a space flight control centre in Beijing, the state Xinhua news agency said.

Ten minutes after launching, the Tiangong-1 separated successfully from its carrier rocket at a height of around 200 kilometres (125 miles) before opening its two solar panels, Xinhua said.

China sees its ambitious space programme as a symbol of its global stature and state newspapers devoted several pages to the launch, hailing it as a "milestone" for the country.

Tiangong-1, which has a two-year lifespan in space,

will receive the unmanned Shenzhou VIII spacecraft later this year in what would be the first Chinese docking in space.

If that succeeds, the module will then dock with two other spacecraft -- Shenzhou IX and X -- in 2012, both of which will have at least one astronaut on board.

The technology for docking in space is hard to master because the two vessels, placed in the same orbit and revolving around Earth at some 28,000 kilometres per hour (17,360 mph), must come together progressively to avoid destroying each other.

French researcher Isabelle Sourbes-Verger said that a correctly functioning docking system would put China "in a potential position to one day access the International Space Station (ISS)."

But she cautioned that this was not likely to happen in the next five years.

China, which has only been open to the world for some 30 years, is playing catch-up in the space arena.

Just like its first manned spaceflight in 2003, the planned space docking later this year will emulate what the Americans and Russians achieved in the 1960s.

China aims to finish its space station, where astronauts can live autonomously for several months like on the ISS or the former Russian Mir, by 2020.

Beijing began its manned spaceflight programme in 1990, after it bought Russian technology that enabled it to become the third country to send humans into space, after the former USSR and the United States.

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Health & Living

Killer US cantaloupes expected to infect more people

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Cantaloupes infected with listeria have sparked the deadliest US foodborne disease outbreak in more than a decade and are likely to claim more victims in the weeks ahead, according to officials.

Thirteen people have died and 72 have fallen ill after eating cantaloupe from Colorado-based Jensen Farms in the first-ever outbreak of the pathogen in whole melons, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Four distinct strains of listeria monocytogenes -- a bacterium that causes listeriosis and is among the most virulent foodborne pathogens -- have been traced to Jensen Farms, which issued a recall in mid-September.

The cantaloupes were dis-

tributed to at least 17 US states but none were exported, health authorities said. They initially reported that some of the cantaloupes had been sent outside the United States.

A person can get sick from listeria up to two months after consuming a contaminated product, and listeria can linger for weeks even in cold temperatures like a refrigerator.

Those most at risk are the elderly, people with weak immune systems, pregnant women, newborns and fetuses.

Pregnant women are often advised to stay away from deli meats and hot dogs, the more common potential sources of listeria because of the risk of miscarriage or still birth.

Two of the 72 people who have fallen ill are pregnant

women, but they and their fetuses are "doing OK," Frieden said.

Listeria infections typically cause fever and muscle aches.

The FDA has warned consumers not to eat Rocky Ford Cantaloupe shipped by Jensen Farms and to throw away the recalled cantaloupes "in a sealed container so that children and animals, such as wildlife, cannot access them."

Not all the afflicted cantaloupes are labeled, but those that are would carry "a green and white sticker that reads: Product of USA - Frontera Produce-Colorado Fresh-Rocky Ford - Cantaloupe," the farm said.

Alternatively, it could have a "gray, yellow, and green sticker that reads: Jensen Farms-Sweet Rocky Fords."

Ground beef recalled in 14 US states



service "strongly encourages consumers to check their freezers and immediately discard any product subject to this recall."

Triggering the New York-to-Texas recall was the discovery of e.coli bacteria in ground beef consumed by a Cincinnati area family that fell ill in mid-September.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Tyson, the biggest meat processor in the United States, is recalling 131,300 pounds of ground beef sold in 14 states after an outbreak of e.coli in Ohio, US food inspectors said Wednesday.

The ground beef -- enough for more than half a million hamburgers -- was sold with a best-before date of September 12, but the Department of Agriculture fears that much of it may have been frozen by consumers for later use.

In a statement, it said its food safety and inspection

One member of the stricken family was a child who spent 10 days in hospital, the Cincinnati Enquirer newspaper reported, quoting a county public health official.

Symptoms of e.coli poisoning include diarrhea, dehydration and, in very severe cases, kidney failure.

Tyson is also the biggest exporter of meat from the United States, but a spokesman at its headquarters in Springdale, Arkansas said none of the recalled ground beef was sold abroad.

Education fever sparks divorce in S. Korea

SEOUL, (AFP) - A housewife who abused her son for his poor test scores was Wednesday ordered to pay her husband 10 million won (\$8,500) in a divorce case which highlights South Korea's obsession with education.

The ruling by the Seoul

Family Court, which did not name the family, was reported by Yonhap news agency.

It said the couple married in 1992 but argued over what the court called the wife's inordinate obsession that their daughter and son achieve high scores.

The mother verbally abused and beat the son when dissatisfied with his marks and favoured his elder sister, who achieved better results.

The harsh treatment of the son led to irreconcilable differences between husband and wife, who had eaten and slept separately in the same home since 2008, the court said.

"The major responsibility for the divorce rests with the wife who one-sidedly blamed the husband for his different ideas about children's education," Yonhap quoted court

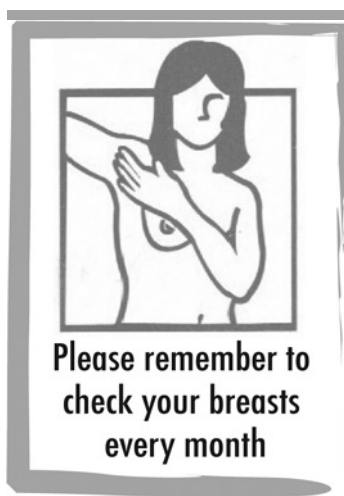
records as saying.

The court granted the father custody of the son, while the daughter will live with her mother.

The financial settlement is a one-off, but it is rare for South Korean courts to order a wife to make any payment to a husband in a divorce case. The report did not say whether the woman was obliged to compensate her beaten son.

South Korean teenagers and younger students come under crushing pressure to excel at school and go on to a prestigious college or university. Educational achievements play a major role in determining job and marriage prospects.

The number of school-age suicides rose from 100 in 2003 to 202 in 2009, according to education ministry statistics.



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Kiki of Cas Animal is well aware not everyone can take in a house full of stray dogs, and doesn't really want anyone to adopt one she has rescued, unless they are positive they can give their new companion the love, time and attention they require.

It is the lack of consideration in realizing the needs of a new four-legged member of the household that so often results in a new addition to her collection. What is really heartbreaking is the condition in which she finds them, but it is very encouraging to see how quickly they bounce back with some decent feeding, a bit of medical care, and, most importantly just a little love and affection.

This weekend, Kiki is conducting her second fundraising golf tournament on Saturday, October 1, thanks to the kind generosity of Tierra Del Sol and their

party around the Ventanas Del Mar pool deck afterwards, both alcoholic and soft drinks, to which everyone is invited.

The funds raised this weekend may just be what Kiki needs to start laying the foundation for a proper animal shelter for which she has already acquired the land, and where she can comfortably house 200 dogs, dozens of cats, and some other animals in need of proper care. It will include a special area where the animals receive treatment, and a place to meet, greet and perhaps adopt an adorable puppy in need of a good home.

All the information for the golf tournament and party are in the picture. A small correction, the after party is from 6:00 to 10 PM in the evening. For only 35 Aruban florins, (\$20) guests will enjoy open bar and snacks plus entertain-



A cute kitten needs a home

ment from the spectacular Pachanga Dance Group. She also wishes to thank Tropical Bottling and Brad for providing refreshments for the "Happy Hour"

ment from the spectacular Pachanga Dance Group.

If you can't attend, you can still by calling Kiki at: 565-2130 or 742-8732 to make a donation or report a stray or injured dog, as she maintains an Animal Ambulance to rescue them. Her expenses for feeding all the animals she has taken in are astronomical, as well as her veterinary bills, and donations can be made by paying on her account at the Contreras Clinics in Shaba or Savaneta, as well as directly to the bank account of Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110. If you wish to adopt a dog, Kiki will assist you in the process, as it is much easier to return to the U.S. with an Aruban dog than you might think. If not one of the many cute puppies she has needing a good home, than perhaps a lovable stray you may have befriended on the beach or streets.

See you Saturday evening for fun and frolic in the name of an important cause, helping to save Aruba's stray dogs and cats, and the construction of a fully functioning no-kill facility on Aruba.

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Dr. Carlos Viana: Why do certain people get sick and others don't?



This year, about 1.5 million people around the world will be diagnosed with cancer. A total of 75% of deaths in the Caribbean are due to HIV. Seven out of 10 Arubans will develop Diabetes Type II before they reach the age of 50. Radiation and contamination in our environment and lack of exercise contribute to diseases, obesity and infections. We all are exposed to these elements, some way or the other.

Why do certain people get sick and others don't? Learn what you can do to keep yourself healthy. Quality of Life Aruba will present a seminar "Why People get Cancer? Pre-

vention and support for cancer, diabetes and other immunity system diseases" by Dr. Carlos Viana (US Board Certified Clinical Nutritionist). The seminar will take place this Monday, October 3 from 7 - 8 p.m. at the YMCA Dakota.

Who must attend this seminar? Anyone who has cancer, diabetes, chronic pain and heart problems, indicators of a weak immunological system. Also all those who wants to slowdown the aging process and wish to become and stay healthy.

The seminar is in English with Papiamentu subtitles. Entrance is FREE.



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Mexico top court lets anti-abortion laws stand

MEXICO CITY, (AFP) - Mexico's Supreme Court on Thursday upheld a constitutional amendment that says that life begins at conception, in a blow to abortion rights campaigners.

Amnesty International said in a statement that ruling was "very disappointing" and marked "a great step back for the rights of women and children in Mexico."

In much of conservative Latin America, apart from Cuba, abortions are only available under limited circumstances, such as rape and incest, while rights groups say that in practice such abortions are difficult to obtain.

SANTA ROSA is proud to announce that the "ADOPT-A-BILLFISH TAGGING PROJECT" wraps up in Aruba



Phase II of the Adopt-A-Billfish white marlin satellite tagging program recently concluded as near-simultaneous tagging expeditions off the coasts of North Carolina and Aruba in the Southern Caribbean wrapped up. In both areas, PSAT pop-up satellite tags were successfully implanted in white marlin, which were then released unharmed. The tags are programmed to record a variety of tremendously valuable scientific data for the next six months, including but not limited to depth patterns, ambient light (which can be

used to determine location), temperature and much more. Dr. Eric Prince of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the chief scientist for Adopt-A-Billfish remarked that the tagging went smoothly and he was anticipating an abundance of useful data. At the end of their six month tour, each tag is programmed to release itself from the fish and float to the surface of the ocean, where it downloads its recorded data to an orbiting satellite over the next five to seven days until its internal battery is drained. This data will be analyzed by Dr. Prince and his colleagues in hopes of determining such valuable information as migratory patterns and spawning aggregations of the white marlin, a billfish species about which little is scientifically known.

The Adopt-A-Billfish program is a NOAA-approved

tagging program funded by private individuals as well as organizations and through sponsorships, with each dollar collected going directly to billfish tagging research. Funding this most recent study was obtained through a variety of sources including the Government of Aruba, the Piedmont Sportfishing Club, the Presidential Challenge Charitable Foundation, The Billfish Foundation, Costa and many others, including private donors.

We would like to recognize the following Aruba tag donors for helping to make our project happen:

Santa Rosa
 Transimex Freezone N.V.
 Pernod-Ricard Travel Re-

tail
 Tabacal N.V.
 ALTAC N.V.

We would also like to thank the Aruba boats for volunteering their services for the tagging effort:

Tara
 Alina
 Driftwood
 Kenny's Toy
 Teaser
 Makuaka
 B Z N

For further information and photos please contact:
 Joan Vernon
 joan@preshchallenge.com

"Padu Lampe loves Thai Restaurant Sawasdee



Recently, Padu Lampe, accompanied by his son and daughter visited Thai Restaurant Sawasdee to enjoy some delicious Thai food. According to Padu, he find the interior comfortable "especially all the elephants." Regularly he asks his daughter when they are going to dine with Mr. Elephants. (Simon)

"Padu Lampe is a fantastic artist, a brilliant piano player and we are proud that he visits our Thai restaurant frequently," says Manager Simon Touw.

Juan Chabaya Lampe, known affectionately by his stage name, Padu del Caribe, has been making music since his father taught him to play the piano, as well as other instruments like the clarinet and violin, as a child in the 1920's. He has been recording and composing for several decades. He wrote "Aruba Dushi Tera," a waltz that is now the

national anthem of Aruba.

But it is not just music that captures the imagination of Padu; in addition to being the first Aruban musician to record professionally abroad, he was the first artist to exhibit and sell his art on an international level as well. His first painting made it all the way to the 1939 World's Fair in New York, when a scout came to the island looking for a local artist who painted local culture or scenes.

Today, at the age of 91, the artist still picks up the paintbrush from time to time, "but only when the inspiration hits" he insists, and his later works tend to be serenely expressionistic. He feels the same about his music—it's for pure enjoyment now, and his rare public performances are coveted by anyone lucky enough to watch and hear the maestro play... he is, after all, the true icon of Aruban culture.

FOR THE BEST

Linda's

PANCAKES & PIZZA

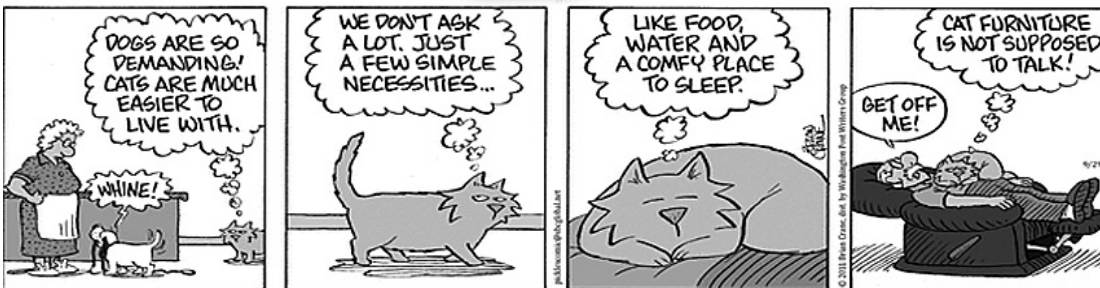
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PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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NEW YORK, NEW YORK

ACROSS

1. Devastating review
5. Bridge section
9. Kingpins
14. Sluggish
15. Threat word
16. B.C. roadway
17. "___ no kick from champagne..."
18. Famed four-legged Kansan
19. Marie Antoinette, for one
20. Island connector
23. Complete
24. Apparatus
25. How do you get there? Practice!
32. Hemplike fiber
35. Things on a list

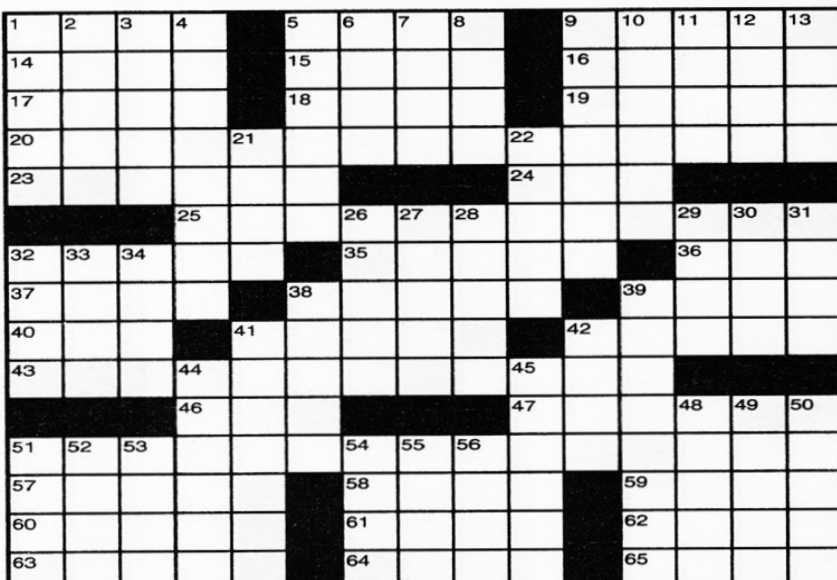
36. Vegetable soup orb
37. Squash player's need
38. Hypochondriac's listing
39. Achievement
40. Have a birthday or two
41. "Chicago Hope" actor Adam
42. Doctors socks
43. Brooklyn waterway
46. TV prog. that made Belushi famous
47. Win a pie contest
51. Bartholdi creation
57. Member of Return to Forever
58. Spanish

59. waterways
60. Zoo sound
61. "I Kissed ___" (Katy Perry)
62. Give in, slangily
63. Charlotte's "Facts of Life" role
64. Laments
65. Character actor Roscoe

DOWN

1. Oozy mud
2. JFK's Boston counterpart
3. Emissary
4. Legendary
5. Bird dog
6. Cabal
7. "Thin Man" dog
8. Entry-level Dodge

9. Lingers
10. 12/24 vehicle
11. Caustic
12. Sounded
13. Olden dagger
21. Russian inland sea
22. Edges
26. New shaver's problems
27. Work ___ (rat racer's credo)
28. She was Thelma in "Thelma & Louise"
29. Mime, at times
30. "Lawrence of Arabia" director David
31. Back muscles, informally
32. Festoon
33. "Othello" role
34. Great number
38. As ___ (usually)
39. Hesitated
41. Pansies and petunias, e.g.
42. Apply plaster
44. Gangplank position
45. Hiss and pop, e.g.
48. Crumble away
49. "Peace ___ price"
50. Supermodel Banks et al.
51. Shell game, e.g.
52. Deli directive
53. "Bravo" evoker
54. "Free Willy" whale
55. Italian automotive giant
56. "___ and Anarchy" (Wertmuller film)



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Numbers

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Sudoku

		6	4			5	8	
				9				
1	7	4						
4	1				9			
	9		6		8		7	
			3				1	2
						4	2	7
				7				
	8	5			3	1		

SOLUTION

6	9	1	5	7	2	5	8	4
5	8	9	4	6	1	7	2	3
4	7	2	1	8	5	6	3	9
2	1	6	7	5	3	4	9	8
7	4	5	8	1	9	2	6	3
8	5	9	6	2	4	3	1	7
3	6	2	5	9	8	7	4	1
9	7	4	2	6	1	8	5	3
1	8	5	4	3	7	9	2	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance**Euro fund clears key German test, as Greece awaits audit**

BERLIN, (AFP) - Europe's rescue fund cleared a major hurdle Thursday when German lawmakers voted overwhelmingly to beef it up, boosting markets as attention turned to a key international audit of debt-mired Greece.

Stock markets on both sides of the Atlantic greeted the news with relief as Chancellor Angela Merkel survived a vote that proved a hard-fought test of her political authority as the world looks to her to defuse the euro debt crisis.

Deputies voted by 523 to 85, with three abstentions, to expand the size and scope of the 440-billion-euro (\$590 billion) European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF), handing it new powers, for example to buy sovereign bonds.

The expansion also boosts the contribution of Germany, Europe's paymaster, to 211 billion euros, though Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble insisted there would be no more cash flowing from Berlin. "We have agreed German guarantees of 211 billion euros for the EFSF. More is not necessary," he said.

Merkel's spokesman Stefan Seibert said on microblogging site Twitter: "It is good that the Bundestag voted for an expanded EFSF rescue fund with such a large majority. Europe and half the world were looking to Germany."

German dailies had dubbed Thursday "decision day for the euro" and "a fateful day" for Merkel, amid hopes Berlin would offer solutions to a eurozone crisis that US President Barack Obama has said is

"scaring the world."

Despite fevered speculation in the run-up to the vote, Merkel did not have to rely on the opposition to pass the bill, staving off a potential political crisis that some feared could spark new elections in Europe's top economy.

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said that with the vote, "the signal to our European partners is that you can rely on Germany."

"Today's decision is an important contribution to solving the debt crisis and to stabilising the euro," Westerwelle said.

The European Commission also hailed the result with a spokesman for Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn saying: "We welcome this new approval of the EFSF."

The spokesman, Amadeu Altafaj, added that the rescue fund was still a "work in progress" but stressed Brussels hopes all eurozone states will have ratified the agreement by mid-October.

Cyprus and Estonia also approved the changes to the EFSF on Thursday, leaving just four of the 17 eurozone countries to vote.

The main stumbling block now appeared to be tiny Slovakia, the eurozone's second poorest country, where the junior coalition partner, Freedom and Solidarity, has repeatedly vowed to torpedo the EFSF's passage.

As if to underline the importance of the fund's new powers, Italy issued 7.85 billion euros worth of bonds

Thursday with sharply higher interest rates, signalling renewed discontent on the markets.

Former British prime minister Gordon Brown warned of more doom ahead, saying in an opinion piece in the New York Times: "It has been clear for some time that ... the euro cannot survive in its present form."

Many banks were "close to insolvency," argued Brown, also a former finance minister, adding that "a far larger rescue fund -- two, perhaps three trillion euros -- is needed to stabilise the eurozone."

Brazil, which along with the United States has been outspoken about the eurozone needing to move quicker to contain the debt crisis, welcomed the German vote.

Meanwhile in Athens, auditors from the European Union, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund met with officials as part of their audit to decide whether to disburse eight billion euros (\$11 billion) of crucial aid for Greece.

Eurozone finance ministers will likely decide on October 13 "whether the conditions are met for the next tranche to be disbursed," Schaeuble said in the parliamentary debate.

As Greece waits for the funds from a first 110-billion-euro bailout approved last year, analysts have already turned their attention to a much-needed second 159-billion-euro Greek rescue package agreed in July.

Greek austerity measures have met fierce resistance and Athens was paralysed for three days this week by a transport strike, with a general strike scheduled for October 19.

The German vote sent European stocks higher, but later trimmed their gains.

US stocks rose sharply at the opening, but in afternoon trade the Dow was off 0.04 percent, while the S&P 500 had given up 0.59 percent and the Nasdaq was down 1.94 percent.

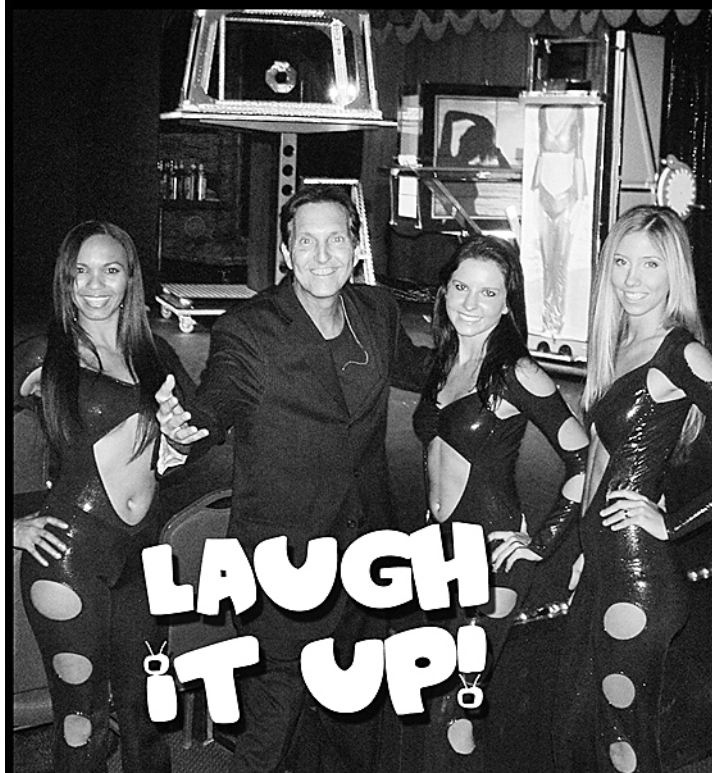
The euro gained around one percent against the dollar before slipping back.

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SHOWTIME: 9PM NIGHTLY

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LOCATION: Westin Resort & Casino Aruba

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BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8:00PM

COST: \$20 (under 15), \$40 adult / LOCALS: Afl. 40

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Fitch lowers New Zealand rating to AA over high debt

PARIS, (AFP) - Fitch ratings agency lowered New Zealand's credit rating by one notch to "AA" on Thursday and expressed concern over its high external debt.

The country's net external debt hit 70 percent of annual gross domestic product (GDP) in June.

Fitch said New Zealand's current account deficit, which reflects a structural imbalance between savings and investment, is set to climb to 4.9 percent of GDP next year and 5.5 percent in 2013.

Fitch also downgraded by one notch New Zealand's

local currency rating from the top "AAA" rating to "AA+".stitutions," said Fitch

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

E	T	A		A	R	K	S	P	O	T	
A	L	A	N		C	U	V	E	E	T	O
L	I	M	N		E	L	O	P	E	S	P
P	O	P	U	L	A	T	I	O	N		P
S	T	A	L	E		D	R	E	S	S	
					V	E	E		T	R	A
H	A	P	P	I	E	S	T		G	E	O
I	G	O	R		L	E	A	S	E	C	T
D	E	P	O	T		D	E	B	A	R	K
R	I	V	A	L	S		A	B	S		
					N	O	L	A	N	S	
T	A	J			P	O	P	U	L	A	R
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R	A	Y	E		E	T	T	A	S		
M	I	S	T		D	Y	E		O	D	E

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Lamb Shoarma



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MEXICO CITY: Models display creations of Mexican designer Josemaria Torre during a runway of the Fashion Week in Mexico City, on September 28, 2011.

AFP PHOTO



PARIS: Models present creations by Belgian designer Ann Demeulemeester during the Spring/Summer 2012 ready-to-wear collection show, on September 29, 2011 in Paris.

AFP PHOTO



FLORENCE: Picture shows a display window of the Gucci Museum at Palazzo della Mercanzia in Piazza della Signoria in Florence, which was inaugurated this week.

AFP PHOTO

Jackson doctor 'ordered aide to remove vials'

LOS ANGELES, (AFP) - Michael Jackson's doctor ordered an aide to help remove medical equipment including a "milky-white substance" from near the star's bed, even as he lay apparently lifeless, a court heard Thursday.

Alberto Alvarez, Jackson's logistics director, said Conrad Murray got him to help remove vials and a saline bag from an intravenous (IV) drip stand next to the star's bed at his plush Holmby Hills home on June 25, 2009.

He also recounted how the King of Pop's distraught daughter Paris screamed "Daddy" as she entered the bedroom and saw her father's body.

Murray is accused of manslaughter over Jackson's death, allegedly by giving him an overdose of the powerful sedative propofol, which the singer referred to as "milk" to help him sleep.

With paramedics not yet on the scene, the doctor then asked him to remove the saline bag and put it in another bag, Alvarez said. As he removed the bag he noticed there was a bottle inside the bag.

He specified that Murray asked for his help in removing the vials before asking him to call 911.

The five-week trial opened Tuesday, when prosecutors laid out their case that Murray was guilty of "gross negligence," while the doctor's lawyers said the drug-addicted star effectively caused his own death.

On the first day jurors saw chilling images of Jackson's dead body on a gurney and heard a haunting audio recording of the heavily-drugged singer talking on the phone only weeks before his death.

But it also heard evidence that Jackson, while giving



LOS ANGELES : Alberto Alvarez, one of Michael Jackson's security guards, testifies in the Conrad Murray trial.

cause for health concerns a week or two before he died, was in reasonable form in his last days, rehearsing for an ill-fated series of comeback shows in London.

On Wednesday two key Jackson aides recounted Murray's "frantic" efforts to save Jackson's life while his children wept -- and how the doctor suggested a cover-up minutes after he died.

Japan donor leaves 10 million yen in public toilet

TOKYO (AFP) - An anonymous donor has left a wad of cash worth \$131,000 in a public toilet in Japan, with instructions it be used to help victims of the March earthquake and tsunami, an official said Thursday.

A plastic shopping bag, containing 10 million yen, was found on September 22 in a toilet for disabled people in the city hall of Sakado, a com-

muter town north of Tokyo, a city official told AFP.

The city will give the money to the Japanese Red Cross if the anonymous donor doesn't reclaim it within three months, city spokeswoman Masumi Sekiguchi said.

She said a hand-written note was attached to the cash, reading: "I'm all alone. I have no future so let the people in Tohoku use it."

Tohoku is the country's northeast region devastated by the catastrophe that killed 20,000 people and triggered an emergency at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

"There was no witness to the act and we cannot guess what kind of person has been involved," she said. "We were really surprised. We also feel thankful for such kindness."



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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers,

airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

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homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to



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arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Grandma's stoba with classic rice and beans and homemade potato beet salad

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

I was suicidal after Pacquiao defeat, says Hatton

LONDON (AFP) - Britain's former world welterweight champion Ricky Hatton admitted on Thursday that his brutal defeat at the hands of Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao drove him to the brink of suicide.

Hatton, who retired in July, was demolished inside just two rounds by Pacquiao in Las Vegas in May 2009, a fierce battering which caused his life to spiral out of control in a battle with drink and drugs.

"I was so down, I was crying and breaking out and contemplating suicide," Hatton told the BBC.

"I was going deeper and deeper into depression. I was going out and having a few drinks. The worst thing you can do with depression is add alcohol to it.

"I needed something to get my backside into gear and

pull my finger out. Sometimes you have to hit rock bottom to think, 'Blimey Ricky, get a grip'.

"Depression is a serious thing and, after my defeat to Manny Pacquiao, I contemplated retirement and didn't cope with it very well."

Hatton's predicament worsened when he fell victim to a newspaper sting in which he was shown taking cocaine before he went into rehabilitation.

"For someone in my position taking drugs once is nothing short of disgraceful," said the 32-year-old.

"The reason behind my actions and the way I was behaving wasn't a drink or drugs thing, it was depression. I was so down, I was crying and breaking out and contemplating suicide.

"Half the things I was doing I didn't even read about

in the paper. I can't even remember the night it happened - that's what depression does to you.

"I was having blackouts, days on end whether I was drinking or not when I couldn't remember what had happened in my life.

"I thank the News of the World because who knows where it could have ended up."

Tiger has lost aura, says Faldo

SINGAPORE (AFP) - Tiger Woods has lost the aura of invincibility that helped him dominate his rivals, emboldening an emerging crop of young players to shine, former world number one Nick Faldo said Thursday.

Woods is still capable of winning tournaments but faces an uphill battle to regain his once unassailable dominance of the greens, Faldo told reporters in Singapore.

"These youngsters have now gotten very comfortable that Tiger is not around... they now concentrate totally on their own game," he said on the sidelines of the Asian Amateur Championship (AAC).

"In the past, Tiger had such an aura, had such a presence that (rivals) used some energy consciously or subconsciously thinking about him or seeing his name on the leader board," Faldo said.

"Now, they're doing their own thing... Tiger has not got the aura that he had before."

Woods, a 14-time major champion, has failed to win an event since the now infamous sex scandal erupted around him in November 2009, and Faldo rated his chances of recovering his best form at no better than "50 percent".

"To win and win a major and comeback and dominate again -- you can't say it's impossible, but it's an uphill battle," he said.

"He's fighting a lot of things," the six-time major winner said, citing Woods' knee injury, his golf swing as well as punctured confidence.

"His concentration is broken."

Woods has fallen to 50th in the rankings and 115th on the US PGA money list with \$629,863 from eight events ahead of next week's Frys.com Open.

Woods, who has hired Joe LaCava as his new bagman, is hoping to show some form during the US PGA Fall Finish as he returns from a two-month layoff.

Season start at stake as key talks set for Friday



NBA Commissioner David Stern

NEW YORK (AFP) - NBA players and club owners will meet today and possibly through the weekend to try and reach an agreement to end a lockout over money issues and start the 2011-2012 season on November 1 as scheduled.

Two days of negotiations concluded Wednesday with plans for full bargaining groups to return to the table on Friday with plans to keep talking as long as progress is made toward a new collective bargaining agreement.

The NBA has already wiped out training camps that were set to start next week and 43 pre-season games have already been called off. Much more could be jeopardized without quick progress in talks, NBA commissioner David Stern said.

"There are enormous consequences at play here on the basis of the weekend," Stern said. "Let's get the two committees in and see whether they can either have a season or not have a season, and that's what's at risk this weekend.

"Either we will make very good progress, and we know what that would mean - we know how good that would be, without putting dates to it - or we won't make any progress.

"And then it won't be a



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Players have offered to trim their share of revenues, which were \$3.8 billion last season, to about 54 percent but have fought any greater reduction and are unwilling to take a deal with a salary cap.

"I can't say that common ground is evident, but our desire to try to get there I think is there," Fisher said.

"We still have a great deal of issues to work through, so there won't be any magic that will happen this weekend to just make those things go away, but we have to put the time in."

Stern had no comment on reports that club owners would settle for tightening some of the salary cap loopholes instead of imposing a hard cap. He also would not say if clubs could start the season with no pre-season games first.

"I shouldn't deal with hypotheticals," Stern said.

Today will mark three full months since the prior deal expired and owners locked out players, the first work stoppage in the NBA since the 1998-99 season was reduced to 50 games per club.

The only North American sports league to wipe out an entire season over money issues was the National Hockey League in 2004-2005. Some of the owners of NHL clubs from that lost season are among the NBA owners in this situation.

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Epic collapses claim Red Sox, Braves



Relief pitcher Jonathan Papelbon #58 of the Boston Red Sox walks off the field after giving up the winning run in the ninth inning against the Baltimore Orioles

BOSTON (AFP) - The newspaper headline said it all - "The Choke's On Us." The Boston Red Sox completed the greatest September collapse to miss the playoffs in Major League Baseball history with a 4-3 loss on Wednesday at Baltimore that combined with a Tampa Bay victory kept Boston from the

Injured Djokovic out of Beijing, defends soccer game

BEIJING (AFP) - World number one Novak Djokovic apologised to his fans after pulling out of the China Open with a back injury, but denied he had been careless with his welfare by playing in a charity football match.

Djokovic said the injury, which required treatment during his US Open final victory over Rafael Nadal two weeks ago, was aggravated in Serbia's Davis Cup semi-final defeat to Argentina which forced him to retire from a crucial singles match.

After the Davis Cup semi-final earlier this month, Djokovic was told by doctors that he would need a month of rest.

But he was seen running around a Belgrade football pitch this week in a charity match.

"For all of those people who have doubts, yes, I played football, and I had no problem with my injury there," said Djokovic.

"But as soon as I started playing tennis and tried to serve, it just wasn't recovered enough for Beijing.

playoffs.

"This one is going to linger, folks, right up until the Red Sox win something meaningful again," the Boston Globe's Chad Finn wrote.

"Last night was the denouement of a month's worth of horrendous performances from those who make up this \$161 million roster, of all of the innings wasted by a lack of urgency, inspiration, and a shortage of timely pitching and hitting."

Pained Red Sox supporters, who had been joyful at the Red Sox curse-ending World Series title in 2004 and the one that followed in 2007, called into local radio shows and vented their frustration at players, managers and the gods themselves at failing to reach the American League playoffs.

"Truly unbelievable. This feels like revenge for 2004 and 2007," wrote Boston Globe columnist Dan Shaughnessy. "It is as if the baseball gods are punishing Red Sox Nation for hubris and arrogance and good times that seemed so good, so good, so good."

The Red Sox went 7-20 in September, their worst record in the month since posting the same mark in 1952.

"We'll go down in history as one of the worst collapses in history, so it definitely doesn't feel good to be part of

that," Red Sox outfielder Carl Crawford said. "We had high expectations, and to fall short the way we did is definitely disappointing for us."

Even the players were shaking their heads, unable to explain their epic failure.

"It's just shocking," Red Sox pitcher Jon Lester said. "It's just one of those things. It wasn't meant to be. It wasn't our year."

But as woeful as it was, the Red Sox collapse was not the only one to hit on Wednesday.

The Atlanta Braves, who enjoyed an 8 1/2-game edge in their playoff fight, lost 4-3 at home to Philadelphia on Wednesday and missed the playoffs by a game thanks to St. Louis, which won in Houston to snag the final post-season spot.

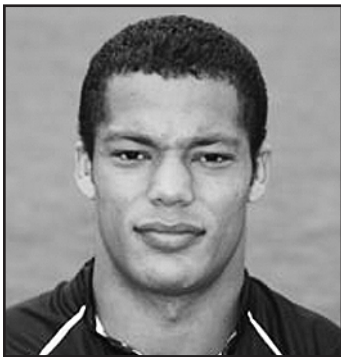
"It's definitely disappointing," Braves second baseman Dan Uggla said. "Whatever happened, we played our (rears) off all month. It just wasn't in the cards for us, I guess. It's a feeling of missed opportunity, disappointment."

"The fact that we're going home now won't sit well with any of us."

A six-month season was wasted in a single night.

"We had it right there and we let it slip away for one reason or another," Braves third baseman Chipper Jones said. "That's a tough pill to swallow."

Win-hungry Klinsmann tabs Williams for US debut



Danny Williams

CHICAGO (AFP) - Jurgen Klinsmann, still seeking his first victory as US national coach, tabbed German-born Danny Williams and World Cup defender Oguchi Onyewu among 22 players for a pair of upcoming friendlies.

Williams, a 21-year-old midfielder for Hoffenheim, is now eligible to play for the Americans after certifying his

US citizenship with the US consulate in Germany, although whether he will play next month is uncertain.

The Americans, with Onyewu back in the lineup, will face Honduras on October 8 at Miami and play Ecuador on October 11 at Harrison, New Jersey.

Most of the players have been the same group that has been in training camp since Klinsmann took over two months ago. Since then, the Americans have drawn 1-1 with Mexico and lost 1-0 to Costa Rica and Belgium.

"We would like to continue seeing our players develop through these initial couple of months," Klinsmann said. "One important thing is to see continuity in the build-up of our national team and also in the way we work as coaches."



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Khan to defend title in Washington



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Britain's Amir Khan will defend his world light-welterweight titles against US mandatory challenger Lam-

ont Peterson on December 10 in Washington, according to promoter Richard Schaefer.

Golden Boy Promotions' Schaefer told ESPN on Thursday that Khan will fight at a venue to be determined in the US capital, where Peterson is a hometown hero but where Khan visited this month for a dinner honoring Muslim athletes.

Khan, 26-1 with 18 knockouts, has won eight fights in a row, most recently last July in Las Vegas when he knocked out Zab Judah in the fifth round to unify the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles.

Peterson, 29-1-1 with 15 knockouts, fought Victor Ortiz to a 10-round draw last December on the undercard of Khan's unanimous decision victory over Marcos Maidana.

The fight is expected to be the last for the Englishman in the division before he moves up next year to welterweight, where possible opponents could include unbeaten US star Floyd Mayweather and Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao.

Peterson's only loss came in his only prior world title fight, when he dropped a unanimous 12-round decision in December of 2009 to Tim Bradley.



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Yankees, Phillies have an edge as playoffs open

NEW YORK (AFP) - Major League Baseball's winningest teams, the Philadelphia Phillies and New York Yankees, own a home-field edge in the playoff fight that begins Friday and ends with the 107th World Series.

The Yankees beat Philadelphia in the best-of-seven championship showdown two years ago and captured their record 27th World Series title by dethroning the defending champion Phillies.

But a possible rematch has plenty of obstacles, starting with the best-of-five first round playoff matchups.

In the American League, the Yankees start at home Friday against Detroit while the Texas Rangers, who dropped their World Series debut last year to San Francisco, will play host to Tampa Bay in the other first-round series opener.

Philadelphia, which led the major leagues with 102 victories, will open the National League playoffs on Saturday at home against St. Louis while Arizona will visit Milwaukee in the other NL



Yankees' C.C. Sabathia

first-round series.

The Yankees and Tigers meet in the playoffs for the first time since 2006, when New York won the opener at home before dropping the next three games and the series as Detroit reached the World Series, losing to St. Louis.

"We did all right that year," Tigers manager Jim

Leyland said. "It's not like everybody's lining up to play the Tigers."

The Yankees, who have not played Detroit since May 5, boast a powerhouse batting lineup that helped win 97 games, including ex-Tiger Curtis Granderson, Derek Jeter, Robinson Cano, Mark Teixeira and Alex Rodriguez.

The Tigers, coming off

their first division title since 1987, boast sluggers Miguel Cabrera and Victor Martinez and a solid leadoff man in Austin Jackson.

On the mound, the Yankees will open with C.C. Sabathia, who went 19-8 with a 3.00 earned-run average, while the Tigers counter with Justin Verlander, who was 24-5 with a 2.40 earned-run average, in a showdown of ace pitchers.

The key might be game two, where Detroit's Doug Fister, unbeaten in the final six weeks of the season, faces 16-game winner Ivan Nova, a rookie.

St. Louis charged into the playoffs by closing the season 23-9 to book a first-round date with the Phillies, whom they went 6-3 against this season.

But Philadelphia offers the deadliest pitching lineup in baseball with Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee, Roy Oswalt and Cole Hamels and the Phillies

bring plenty of confidence they can reach the World Series for the third time in four years.

"You can't be scared and you can't look to dodge nobody," Phillies manager Charlie Manuel said. "Bring 'em on. Let's get 'em. Champions can beat anybody."

Halladay went 19-6, Lee was 17-8 and Hamels went 14-9 while Oswalt was only 9-10. But the Phillies fiery pitching baffled opposing batters and made life easier for top hitters Shane Victoriano, Jimmy Rollins and Placido Polanco.

Arizona had the second-worst record in the NL last year but the Diamondbacks completed a worst-to-first NL West reversal under manager Kirk Gibson in his first full season in the job.

Milwaukee won a club-record 96 triumphs this season to win a division title for the first time in 29 years as they try to reach the World Series for the first time since 1982, when they lost to St. Louis.

Texas also set a club record with 96 victories and last year ousted Tampa Bay in the first round of the playoffs on the way to the World Series.

The Rays rely on pitching and fielding and will need both to be stellar against Texas, which ended the season with five triumphs in a row to claim a first-round home-field edge.

The powerful Rangers' batting lineup includes Josh Hamilton, with a .298 average, 25 home runs and 94 runs batted in, Adrian Beltre and Ian Kinsler with 32 homers each, Nelson Cruz with 29 homers and Mike Napoli with 30 homers.

MLB playoff schedule

American League

DETROIT V NEW YORK YANKEES

Friday: Detroit at New York Yankees
Saturday: Detroit at New York Yankees
October 3: New York Yankees at Detroit
October 4: New York Yankees at Detroit
October 6: Detroit at New York Yankees

TAMPA BAY V TEXAS

Friday: Tampa Bay at Texas
Saturday: Tampa Bay at Texas
October 3: Texas at Tampa Bay
October 4: Texas at Tampa Bay
October 6: Tampa Bay at Texas

National League

ST. LOUIS V PHILADELPHIA

Saturday: St. Louis at Philadelphia
Sunday: St. Louis at Philadelphia
October 4: Philadelphia at St. Louis
October 5: Philadelphia at St. Louis
October 7: St. Louis at Philadelphia

ARIZONA V MILWAUKEE

Saturday: Arizona at Milwaukee
Sunday: Arizona at Milwaukee
October 4: Milwaukee at Arizona
October 5: Milwaukee at Arizona
October 7: Arizona at Milwaukee